

Bjerke, Bill

From: Mckain, Emelie L (DFW) <Emelie.Mckain@dfw.wa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2016 2:19 PM
To: Llewellyn, Karen
Cc: Bjerke, Bill; Wagner, Jon
Subject: RE: Frenchman's Bar Regional Park - Disc Golf Course
Attachments: CWTD_FrenchmansBar_usage.jpg

Hi Karen,

Thank you for involving WDFW in the planning phase of the Frenchman's Bar proposed disc golf course. While we certainly value the balance between human recreation and habitat protection, WDFW has a few concerns with the design plan of the proposed course and the activity's impact on local wildlife and their habitat. As discussed on site, below are our reasoning and recommendations for course redesign.

The current course design directly impacts riparian forested habitat that is vital for the success of federally endangered Bald Eagles, Columbian White Tailed Deer, and many local bird species including state candidate Slender-billed White-breasted Nuthatch. It is strongly recommended that the course be redesigned to not include any encroachment to the forested riparian area.

In addition, the current 18 hole course encroaches into Columbian White Tailed deer rearing habitat. As a state and federally listed endangered species, the proposed course would directly impact currently utilized foraging and rearing habitat of marked individuals, among others. We propose that the course be decreased in size to no longer include the northern field that is utilized by the deer. Attached is an image of sample locations the radio collared deer has travelled to, including the northern field in the original proposed course plans.

Finally, waterfowl and other bird species that occupy the area will be impacted. Due to overwintering geese populations that utilize the wet, low grass areas of the fields in question, seasonality restrictions for public use of the course would be a recommended opportunity to balance human needs with those of the wildlife that occupy the area.

In summary, WDFW recommends that a potential course should be decreased to a 9 hole course that only occupies the most southern field closest to the existing park facilities. In addition seasonally restricting public use of the course in winter months is preferred to allow overwintering waterfowl to utilize available habitat. More analysis is recommended as design options become available to weigh the potential impacts of development with wildlife needs.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns with this analysis of the proposed disc golf course. Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed disc golf course at Frenchman's Bar Park.

Thank you,
Emelie

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